REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-75 are pending in the present amendment, and claims 1, 3, 24, 29, 33, 44, 48, 49, 53-55, 61 and 63 are amended by the present amendment. It is believed no new matter is added.

CHANGES TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are submitted for FIGS. 6 and 8 to correct minor informalities. It is believed no new matter is added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,927 to Elliott and U.S. Patent No. 6,363,411 to Dungan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, it is respectfully submitted neither Elliott nor Dungan nor the combination of Elliott and Dungan discusses the features of the pending claims. Elliott merely discusses routing "telephone calls, data and other multimedia information" through a hybrid network. Further, Dungan only describes a "centralized administration system" that stores "reusable business data objects." Considering *arguendo* a combination of Elliott and Dungan as proposed in the outstanding Office Action, without conceding such a combination can be made or is suggested in the art, such a combination of Elliott and Dungan would nonetheless fail to discuss or suggest the features of the pending claims.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method for activating a service in a network, including "receiving a service order having one or more service components with each component being in a generic format." The generic service request format "is generic to a plurality of services having a plurality of vendors or version numbers," which is found in the originally filed specification at least in FIGS. 7 and 9 and at page 24, line 25 to page 25, line 9. Independent claims 24, 29, 44, 48, 49, 53-55 and 61 are amended to

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include similar features, and the pending claims distinguish over Elliott and Dungan at least because Elliott and Dungan do not discuss or suggest such features, either alone or in combination.

In a non-limiting example, FIG. 9 shows that universal (generic) service component instances 440, 445 and 450 entered in the service provisioning system 402 are grouped together to form a service order 451. A specific service component not only describes a specific service but also has a logical ordering with respect to other service components (see the specification at page 24, line 25 to page 25, line 9).

As an advantage, service provisioning systems (SPSs) 402 (the source of activation information) are not forced to maintain vendor specific commands, configuration parameter names, valid values, etc. Also, service provisioning systems 402 are thus insulated from details, required user knowledge, and storage requirements otherwise necessitated by differing device-level management protocols (see the specification at page 25, lines 13-17).

In contrast, Elliott merely discusses at column 23, lines 14-21 that "calls" or "transactions" originate in a network from a customer service request and are received by an ISP, in which a "service engine" determined which service features are needed. However, Elliott does not teach or suggest at least a generic service request format that "is generic to a plurality of services having a plurality of vendors or version numbers," as in the independent claims. Further, Dungan also does not discuss or suggest such features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 24, 29, 44, 48, 49, 53-55 and 61 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Eliott and Dungan, and it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Further, the dependent claims even further distinguish over the applied art. For example, claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, features of "...converting a device neutral generic service component into device specific terminology..." In contrast, Elliott only discusses controlling network activity from a central site, and Dungan only discusses a "resource complex including network switches." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted the dependent claims are also allowable for at least these reasons and for the reasons discussed regarding the independent claims from which they depend.

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In addition, claims 3, 33 and 63 are amended only to correct minor informalities and to better conform to standard patent practice. It is believed no new matter is added.
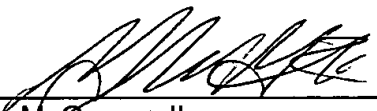
CONCLUSION

In light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Dec. 9 2003   By: _____

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